



First In Support !

www.21sttsc.army.mil

21st Theater Sustainment Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Vol: 3 Issue: 5 May 2010



AIR ASSAULT RETURNS TO EUROPE

Pfc. Elisha Pearson, a supply specialist with 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, receives encouragement from a Mobile Training Team air assault instructor May 4 while learning how to properly belay. The students were practicing rappelling on a steep hill before attempting to rappel down the 40-foot tower. (Photo by Sgt. Fay Conroy, 21st TSC PAO)

By Sgt. Fay Conroy
21st TSC PAO

SCHWEINFURT, Germany – The air assault students craned their necks to see the top of the looming tower. In a few minutes they would rappel down the face of the 40-foot rappel tower for the first time. It was what they had been waiting for – the moment they could prove they were worthy to wear air assault wings.

The 10-day Air Assault School held at Camp Robertson is the first air assault course held in Europe since 2005. A Mobile Training Team from the Warrior

Training Center in Fort Benning, Ga., provided the instructors for the course.

Over 209 students arrived at Camp Robertson to participate in the training, but the numbers quickly diminished as students fell prey to obstacles with names such as Tough One, The Dirty Name and Skyscraper.

By day seven and the start of phase three, which is where the students learn basic rappelling, there were 189 students left.

During the rappelling phase students learned how to tie the hip rappel seat or swiss seat, hook-up

First In Support !

techniques, lock-in procedures, belay procedures, how to rappel with and without combat equipment, and fast rope familiarization.

“We start out teaching them hook up procedures and belay procedures and then they’ll go through ground training, which is just the walking stage of rappelling. Then they’ll move to the slant wall, which is a little more advanced, a little more steep,” said Sgt. Adam Lamberson, one of the MTT air assault instructors. “We’ll do the wall side today and then we’ll go into the open side.”

The open side consists of Hollywood rappels without combat equipment, three brakes to the ground, a semi-combat lock-in and then a full combat load, where students wear all their modular lightweight load-carrying equipment and carry their rucksacks and rifles, said Lamberson.

For one of the students, the rappel phase was not something to be feared; instead she considered it a reward for making it that far in the course.

“I’m very excited because all of us have worked so hard to get this far. It takes a lot of mental and physical strength,” said Staff Sgt. Margarita Flores, a paralegal with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade.

The next obstacle for the students to overcome is the 12-mile road march, which must be completed in three hours in order for the students to graduate. The graduation is scheduled for May 7.

Another air assault course is already being planned for fiscal year 2011.



Students attending the air assault course at Camp Robertson were required to rappel down a 40-foot tower to earn their air assault wings. During their descent they were required to let go of the rope and lean backwards to simulate falling, which would build their confidence in their belay man. (Sgt. Fay Conroy, 21st TSC PAO)

First In Support! is an authorized electronic publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this electronic publication are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of 21st Theater Sustainment Command.

Submit story ideas to mail.21t.aerpaom@eur.army.mil

All submissions will become property of the Public Affairs Office and are subject to editing as deemed appropriate.

21st TSC Commanding General:

Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston

21st TSC Command Sergeant Major:

Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer

Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Anna Friederich

Public Affairs Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Cameron Porter

Layout & Design: Sgt. Fay Conroy

7th CSC helps celebrate 65 years of victory in Europe

By Lt. Col. Michele R. Sutak
7th CSC PAO

MANCHE, France – U.S. and allied servicemembers, U.S. Army Reserve Ambassadors from the state of Texas, World War II veterans, local dignitaries and civilians honored the memory of those who liberated France at a commemoration ceremony at the foot of the 90th Infantry Division “Tough ‘Ombres” memorial April 27.

Retired Col. Olin R. Brewster, U.S. Army Reserve ambassador from Texas, recognized World War II veteran John Roman, who served in the Army as a sergeant first class and was there when the guns fell silent in Europe and victory was declared. The audience at the commemoration ceremony honored Roman with a standing ovation for his wartime service and his participation in liberating France.

During the ceremony, Brewster recognized each battle the 90th ID fought in during World War II to earn the battle streamers that currently fly on the Tough ‘Ombre colors. The five battle streamers presented during this ceremony included Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland and Central Europe.

Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Stading, the command sergeant major of the 7th CSC, handed a streamer to Roman, who was an honorary guest at the battle streamer ceremony. Roman placed one of the streamers on the 90th ID colors and sharply saluted the flag to honor the Northern France battle campaign.

The 1st and 3rd battalions of the 359th Regiment, 90th ID, landed at Utah Beach June 6, 1944, around 6:30 p.m., and the rest of the 90th ID reached the shore over the next two days. From that point on they were in constant action until the end of the war. The 90th ID lost more than 18,000 Soldiers during the



Retired Sergeant 1st Class John Roman, a native of Fenwick Island, Del., places the Northern France battle streamer on the 90th Infantry Division colors at a battle streamer ceremony on Utah Beach April 27. This was one of four commemoration ceremonies the U.S. Army Reserve ambassadors of the state of Texas held in honor of the 65th Anniversary of V-E Day during their visit to Europe. (Photo by Lt. Col. Michele R. Sutak, 7th CSC PAO)

grueling 308 days of combat.

“We mourn the loss of those who paid the ultimate price, be they Allies or the French citizens of Normandy fighting to liberate their homeland,” said Brig. Gen. Jimmie Jaye Wells, the commanding general of the 7th CSC. “That heroism will not be forgotten nor will it be in vain – and the patriotism and honor, which defined their lives, will outlive us all.”

After the ceremony, the crowd gathered around to welcome and honor the veterans, U.S. Army leaders, dignitaries and the 7th CSC Color Guard. Many people waited anxiously to have their photo taken with the Color Guard, barely holding back their gratitude and

their excitement on their faces.

Brewster addressed the audience and referred to Tom Brokaw describing the World War II veterans as “The Greatest Generation.” And every day people from all walks of life come to Utah Beach to honor these veterans and stand among these heroes, celebrating this greatest generation in their Victory in Europe.

“All of us are deeply humbled by our relationships with each of you ... we draw inspiration from you and those who have gone before,” said Brewster. “There are many words to describe your deeds, but no words to do you sufficient honor ... so we simply say ‘thank you’ and we salute you.”



Remembering Ardy

By Sgt. Adrienne Killingsworth

18th MP Bde. PAO

MANNHEIM, Germany – While a military working dog might officially be classified as a “highly specialized piece of equipment” by Army standards, in the world of military working dogs – especially where a dog is a partner, a friend and a battle buddy to its handler – the bond that develops is often one of genuine caring and love. To lose that partner – that buddy – is a loss that is deeply felt. It is not like losing a piece of equipment; it is truly like losing a friend.

The Army lost one of its finest working dogs May 6 in Kaiserslautern, Germany, when MWD Ardy, a Patrol Explosive Detection Dog with the 527th Military Police Company, 709th Military Police Battalion, was put to rest after it was discovered that his aggressive case of cancer could not be treated.

It was a somber end for an MWD who soldiered on despite the years of hard work and multiple deployments.

Ardy began his career in Germany back in 2003 in Darmstadt. In his seven years as an MWD, Ardy

deployed four times – twice to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When Ardy’s handler, Staff Sgt. Kristopher Maranville, kennel master for the Hohenfels Kennels, 527th MP Co., first got word in 2007 that he would be getting Ardy, he said that even then, “I knew I was getting a good dog.”

But, more than getting a good dog, Maranville was getting a good partner.

“They were a match made in heaven. They were like father and son,” said Staff Sgt. Terrence Parker, a fellow dog handler with the 527th MP Co., 709th MP Bn.

Ardy and Maranville deployed together once to Iraq and once to Afghanistan, where they went on combat missions outside the wire and provided force protection.

As a PEDD, Ardy’s training and instincts were as important to the success of their missions as the training of the Soldiers he was there to protect. Ardy’s

>>See ARDY pg. 6



Everyone wins at the Special Olympics

By Angelika Lantz
21st TSC PAO

ENKENBACH-ALSENBORN, Germany – Their smiles proclaim them winners – exuberant and infectious, or a bit shy, but always radiant. Countless faces sported huge smiles at the Kaiserslautern Special Olympics May 12 at the German Police Academy here.

Neither the dreary overcast skies nor the unseasonable cold could dim the smiles of the 800 athletes who participated in the games and the 1,650 volunteers who made it all possible. The athletes, between the ages of 8 and 70, came from 58 schools and institutions throughout Germany, including 19 Department of Defense Dependents Schools, Europe.

The Special Olympics, an international program of athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, was hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern for its 27th year. As in the past 11 years, they were co-hosted by and held at the grounds of the German Police Academy in Enkenbach-Alsenborn.

“This wonderful event demonstrates the great partnership we have with the police academy,” said Mark Heeter, the public affairs officer at USAG-K. He explained that the hosts tackled an incredible amount of planning and coordination to make this a first-class event.

“In the end, everyone was a winner. In the end, even the sun smiled on us – for about five minutes or so,” he said.

Many Special Olympians, including 16-year-old Holger Jotter, a student at the Siegmund-Craemer-

School in Bad Duerkheim, Germany, wore smiles – smiles that certainly outlasted and outshone the sun.

“He is having so much fun, it’s contagious. He played softball and then we stood in line for three competitions, but he changed his mind. He is having fun just seeing everyone and feeling the incredible atmosphere, this incredible excitement,” said his buddy, Tech. Sgt. Scott Noggle, a network administrator with the Air Force at Ramstein Air Base.

Volunteer buddies simultaneously fill the role of personal coach, cheerleader and friend for the event. Noggle, who has been active with the games since 1992, relied on smiles, touch and gestures to communicate with Jotter. Nonetheless, he declared it a very rewarding and enjoyable experience.

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.” The oath of the Special Olympics was enthusiastically celebrated by countless athletes. Participation would garner them a ribbon – and with the choice of track and field, soccer, badminton, softball, tennis, basketball, and volleyball – numerous athletes sported impressive collections of them. For the 5- to 7-year-olds, a number of non-competitive games provided fun and excitement.

If the athletes showed all-out enthusiasm, so did the volunteers. Encouragement, cheering and praise were passionately and loudly expressed everywhere. The athletes with their joyous smiles and eager enthusiasm and the volunteers with their compassionate encouragement and exuberant cheering put the “special”

>>See OLYMPICS pg. 6

>>From ARDY pg. 4

contributions to the Army and its Soldiers are not easy to measure, but they are impossible to overlook.

While a typical working dog usually begins to be cycled out of its job at around seven years old, Ardy was still going strong at almost 10, until his illness took hold.

"He was a hard worker," Maranville said, "He liked to do his job – he wouldn't quit doing his job."

And while Ardy may have been the "old man of the Kennel" as Parker called him, his age didn't seem to hold him back in his job or in his affection for his partner. Even though he weighed 85 pounds, "Ardy was so happy whenever

(Maranville) would walk into the room, he would bounce up and down," Parker said.

That type of a welcome for his partner seemed to typify Ardy's personality – of which there was a lot. Despite the fact that he was an 85-pound German Shepherd, Ardy made friends wherever he went. Everyone liked him, Maranville said. He just had that kind of personality.

"If you met him once, you liked him," Maranville said, adding that Ardy's personality shined until the end. "The day they put him down, he had all the vet techs in tears. He was just that kind of dog. They grew attached to him in less than a week."

As a team, Maranville said they deployed together without

much fanfare and came back from deployment without the elaborate welcome back that a unit's return might receive. If Ardy's passing provides one thing, it's recognition for the hard work and dedication that he had to his job, Maranville said, adding that "the fact that he's getting recognized is really the biggest thing for me."

Trained dogs have a proud heritage in the military. They have been used in the world's military forces since they were first organized – amplifying soldiers' skills by acting as an extension of them. As people take this time to remember Ardy, it is comforting to know that even though he will be missed, a fine example of a "war dog" has been added to that proud legacy.

>>from OLYMPICS pg. 5

into the Special Olympics.

Not quite 18-year-old Mariah Bastin, a student at Ramstein High School, is another regular. Inspired by her 11-year-old brother, Stirling Bastin, who is a student at REHA Westpfalz Schule in Landstuhl, Germany, she said, "It's just amazing to see so many people who compete wholeheartedly despite their disabilities. It is awesome how they deal with their circumstances, how happy they are and how much fun they have."

Luca Mathieu, also 11 and a classmate of Stirling, made another point. The Special Olympics would not be near as special without the Americans, he explained.

"They are so nice and very loud when they clap and cheer. It makes me smile," he said.

A volunteer for the past 14 years, Sgt. Maj. Mariano Alvarez, the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's supply and logistics directorate sergeant major, handed out medals to the athletes.

"This is what Soldiers do. You assist wherever you can. You give back to the community," said Alvarez. "But the Special Olympics are always very special. To see so much joy and determination in the face of adversity makes you realize how lucky you are."

"The looks – the smiles on their faces – is the most rewarding part," he added.

The Special Olympics, which began in 1968 when Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the First International Special Olympics Games at Soldier Field in Chicago, were brought to Kaiserslautern by Sarah Bican a DODDS teacher in 1974.



The parade of athletes at the Special Olympics at the German Police Academy in Enkenbach-Alsenborn, Germany, May 12 was enthusiastically greeted. While the athletes wore red T-shirts and the volunteers were attired in turquoise, they wore similarly exuberant smiles. (Photo by Angelika Lantz, 21st TSC PAO)

'Theater of War' performs for 21st TSC, KMC Soldiers

By Sgt. Frank Sanchez III

21st TSC PAO

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Echoes of ancient Greek drama filled the air inside the Kaiserslautern Community Activity Center on Daenner Kaserne May 20 here as Soldiers and Families from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command and the Kaiserslautern Military Community gathered to take part in an innovative new program.

The program, called Theater of War, is part of an Army-wide effort to assist combat veterans with developing their coping skills and resiliency, and the helping these veterans through their overall healing processes.

Theater of War incorporates a theatrical approach as a method to assist Soldiers and their Families cope with the challenges of dealing with combat stress. A group of four respected actors in stage and screen performed ancient Greek readings from Sophocles as part of the Theater of War's European tour through U.S. military communities. The town-hall like setting shed a different light on the reality of coping with post traumatic stress as well as the physical, emotional, spiritual, social and family issues Soldiers and Families face upon returning home from a combat deployment.

"I think it shows that throughout the years, emotional problems are a part of everybody's lives. It doesn't matter how strong you are, you have issues you have to deal with, especially in a profession like ours. We can relate to the Greek stories and plays," said Master Sgt. William Quimbayoglen, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge at the 21st TSC. Quimbayoglen, having been through two deployments himself, knows firsthand about the stressors today's Soldiers and Families face.

Bryan Doerries, a writer and director who founded Theater of War, described the project as a way to assist Soldiers and Families overcome stigmas about psychological injuries suffered in battle, utilizing ancient Greek

"I think it shows that throughout the years, emotional problems are a part of everybody's lives."

– MASTER SGT. WILLIAM QUIMBAYOGLLEN

plays as a catalyst for discussion.

Jamie Hector, critically acclaimed for his portrayal as Marlo Stanfield in the HBO series "The Wire," was one of the actors on the European Theater of War tour. Hector said he feels participating in this program will provide a different kind of forum for Soldiers and Families to speak about combat stress.

"When somebody is just not feeling comfortable in their own skin and at peace and they need an outlet and they don't want to speak to anybody, this is just a way to give them a different outlet," Hector said.

Honoring the fallen- Sgt. Tomlinson



Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, the commanding general of 21st Theater Sustainment Command, and 21st TSC Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer pay their respects to Sgt. Joshua Tomlinson at a memorial ceremony May 21 at the Vogelweh Chapel. Tomlinson was an early warning systems operator with the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Kaiserslautern, Germany, before being deploying to Afghanistan. While deployed he was reassigned to V Corps. He was killed in Kabul, Afghanistan, when a Taliban car bomber struck the NATO convoy he was traveling with. Tomlinson is survived by his wife, Rowena Cruz-Tomlinson. (Photo by Sgt. Fay Conroy, 21st TSC PAO)

18th MPs



Sgt. Sherman Williams, a motor sergeant with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade, and a St. Louis, Mo., native, assists a German MP from 2nd Company, Feldjäger Battalion 251, at an M4 and M9 range the brigade hosted as a chance for German soldiers to earn their American marksmanship badges. (Photo by Sgt. Adrienne Killingsworth, 18th MP Bde. PAO)

Partnership builds strength along with friendships

By Sgt. Adrienne Killingsworth
18th MP Bde. PAO

MANNHEIM, Germany – Continuing its tradition of partnership with the 2nd Company, Feldjäger Battalion 251 – the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade wrapped up its most recent training venture with its sister unit April 28 in Mannheim, Germany. Over the course of a week, the Feldjägers, or German MPs, were given numerous classes and had the opportunity to learn U.S. Army MP tactics for a variety of garrison and combat situations.

The partnership is an ongoing tradition within the brigade and something the HHC “Roughnecks” and their German counterparts look forward to whenever the opportunity arises.

“We’ve done two Schutzenschnurs, numerous ranges on our side, and we’ve just done a lot of events. I think it’s been one of the highlights of my time in command to be able to have that experience,” said Cpt. Benjamin Barrett, the commander of HHC, 18th MP Brigade.

The training began with the opportunity to earn their American marksmanship badges with the M4 rifle and the M9 pistol April 22 at Lampertheim Training Area in Mannheim, where the brigade conducted a range and trained the Feldjägers on the fundamentals of the weapons.

Having had the opportunity to earn the Schutzenschnur – the German marksmanship badge – HHC returned the favor at the April 22 range for the Feldjägers. MPs spent

the day instructing and advising their counterparts on the differences and similarities between the American and German rifle and pistol, which resulted in good scores from the Feldjägers on the range.

With their marksmanship badges earned, the Feldjägers returned to Mannheim April 27-28 to tackle a non-lethal training course and a Military Operations on Urban Terrain course put on by the company’s training section. The non-lethal course included instruction on the taser, Oleoresin Capsicum pepper spray and self-defense using a police baton.

The instruction on the taser gave the Feldjägers a course on the purpose, the proper implementation and the effects of the taser. The Feldjägers were, of course, given the opportunity to feel the effects of the taser first-hand along with their American counterparts. The five-second tasing gave everyone a proper idea of the effects of the taser – along with a firm desire to never be tased again.

As painful as the taser was to experience, the taser demonstration area was filled with laughter as MPs and Feldjägers watched their buddies go through their five excruciating seconds of being tased. It was one of the more surprising moments when the MPs bonded with each other through the training.

The training with the OC spray was not quite as enjoyable, and the amount of laughter was noticeably lower as each Feldjäger was sprayed with OC and led through an obstacle course where they had to defend

First In Support !

themselves with their police batons.

The first day of training ended after the obstacle course, and the MPs and Feldjäger recovered from their first day of training with a barbecue in front of the brigade headquarters. As the soldiers traded stories over hamburgers and potato salad, the friendly bond between the two companies was obvious.

As important as the partnership is from a military perspective, there is definitely a friendly social environment that develops during this type of training. Soldiers often leave training events like this one with a German friend that they will continue to keep in touch with long after the training is over.

It is one of the unique benefits to being stationed in Germany and having a partnership like this, said Barrett.

“I think it’s a benefit for everybody, not just military-wise,” Barrett said, adding that, “It transcends the military side.”

“All of the things we learned were either new or nearly new because we do not do things the way you do,” said German army Staff Sgt. Miro Wildemann, one of the Feldjäger who participated in the training.

The opportunity to learn a new tactic for a given situation not only gives the German soldiers a unique training opportunity, but it also gives the 18th MP Bde. Soldiers a chance to refine their understanding and execution of drills.

The MOUT site training at the LTA added another element to the training when HHC partnered up with Soldiers from 43rd Signal Company, who were doing their own training exercises in the field and allowed them the opportunity to go through the MOUT site with a foreign army.

Staff Sgt. William Benson, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge for HHC, 18th MP Bde., who led the training for the non-lethal course and the MOUT site, said the training at the MOUT site was especially significant because “It is very realistic. When I was downrange I worked with all types of Soldiers. It almost doesn’t matter where you go now, all the missions are either NATO or ISAF or some type of coalition.”

German army Pfc. Dirk Christmann added that “The MOUT training was fun because going in houses – and especially doing it with foreign forces where you have the language barrier – was very interesting.”

Many of the Soldiers who participated in the MOUT site training had combat experience, which supplemented the MP combat experience of the instructors, and that meant a lot to the Feldjäger who participated in the training.

“All the instructors today had experience in Iraq and



Sgt. Esaid Olvera, noncommissioned officer in charge of the command communication division, 181st Signal Company, 43rd Signal Battalion, and a Tuscon, Ariz., native, leads a team of Soldiers as they demonstrate how to enter a building at the Militaray Operations on Urban Terrain site at the Lampertheim Training Area April 28 in Mannheim, Germany, for a group of Feldjäger from 2nd Company, Feldjäger Battalion 251. The 18th Military Police Brigade collaborated with Soldiers from the 43rd Signal Bn. during the training, which was a part of an ongoing partnership between the 18th MPs and their Feldjager counterparts in Germany. (Photo by Sgt. Adrienne Killingsworth, 18th MP Bde. PAO)

that has a very heavy weight for me, with what they say,” Wildemann said after the training, adding that the most important thing for him is that “It’s not from a book; it’s from experience.”

The training event proved to be both a learning experience and a bonding experience for both units – and a tradition that both sides hope to continue to build on.

AIR ASSAULT



THE 10-DAY AIR ASSAULT SCHOOL HELD AT CAMP ROBERTSON IS THE FIRST AIR ASSAULT COURSE HELD IN EUROPE SINCE 2005. A MOBILE TRAINING TEAM FROM THE WARRIOR TRAINING CENTER IN FORT BENNING, GA., PROVIDED THE INSTRUCTORS FOR THE COURSE. (all photos by Sgt. Fay Conroy, 21st TSC PAO)